

Technical Note Two

Alabama Feral Swine Control Program

Conservation Incentive Program Guidelines

I. Purpose and Availability

- A. The purpose of the Feral Swine Control Program is to provide funding in selected watersheds to Alabama landowners for trapping of Feral Swine. Feral swine are a nuisance in Alabama, destroying planted crops, damaging forests, competing with native and game animals, compacting soil and causing water quality issues.
- B. The Feral Swine Control Program will provide \$1,638,568 dollars in Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) funding to Alabama landowners to trap feral swine. The project will expand on a watershed basis with watersheds selected throughout the state to participant in the Feral Swine Control Program. The watershed selection is based on feral swine damage, and input from agricultural producer interest.
- C. The Feral Swine Control Program is a partnership program between the US Department of Agriculture (NRCS), USDA-Wildlife Services, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (AL SWCC), the Alabama Agriculture and Conservation Development Commission (AACDC), Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), and the local Conservation Districts in selected watersheds.
- D. Participation in the Feral Swine Control Program is voluntary.
- E. The funding cap for each applicant is \$6,000 for landowners with 1,000 acres or less in the project area and \$12,000 for landowners with more than 1,000 acres in the project area. Assistance will be provided on a 70% cost share basis. Agriculture producers will be required to submit actual receipts for approved practices to the local Conservation District to be reimbursed for expenditures. In-kind services will not be accepted as participant match.
- F. Socially Disadvantaged participants will receive extra ranking points. However, the funding cap and cost share match will be the same for socially disadvantaged participants.
- G. Funds may be exhausted before all selected watersheds and/or applicants in the program are funded.

II. Eligibility

- A. Producer must be registered with the local Conservation District as a Soil and Water Conservation District Cooperator.
- B. Participant must own land or show control (i.e. lease) for at least 2 year.
- C. Land offered must be located within the boundary of the targeted project area as determined by latitude and longitude by NRCS or USDA-Wildlife Services.
- D. Participant must meet Adjusted Gross Income requirements or request and be granted a waiver.

- E. Land offered must have presence of feral swine or feral swine damage confirmed by the District Feral Swine Coordinator, the NRCS Personnel or Wildlife Biologist or USDA-Wildlife Services Personnel.
- F. Pre-screened applicants will include those in the USDA-Wildlife Services target area (see attached maps) and be recommended for the program by a NRCS Wildlife Biologist or a USDA-Wildlife Services Representative or an Alabama Cooperative Extension System Representative (ACES).
- G. Participant will receive additional ranking points if they complete an approved educational course on the proper techniques for trapping feral swine OR be recommended for the program by a NRCS Wildlife Biologist or a USDA-Wildlife Services Representative or an Alabama Cooperative Extension System Representative (ACES).
- H. Land offered must be a minimum of 100 contiguous acres or referred by NRCS Personnel or USDA Wildlife Services Personnel.
- I. Land offered must be in one of the following land uses: cropland, orchards, horticulture, vegetables, pasture, hay, forestry, or wildlife. Land that is critical to habitat or water quality are also eligible depending on the opinion of a NRCS Biologist or USDA-Wildlife Services.
- J. Applicant must meet all NRCS requirements for cultural resources review.

III. Applications and Ranking

- A. Any eligible landowner with eligible land may apply for participation in the Feral Swine Conservation Incentive Program.
- B. Applicants will work with local Conservation Districts to apply for the Feral Swine Conservation Incentive Program through the AACDC Cost Share program.
- C. Applications will be ranked and funded based on the targeted watershed in which a portion the eligible land is located.
- D. Socially Disadvantaged applicants will receive additional ranking points.
- E. A ranking tool will be established to determine the priority for funding applications located in each watershed. The ranking tool will consider such items as presence of pigs or pig damage, location of land (target area), social disadvantaged status, completion of education course or USDA-NRCS/Wildlife Services recommendation based on goal of project.
- F. If one or more applications receives the same score and all applications cannot be funded, the applications will be funded based on earliest date of application.

IV. Agreements

- A. The intention of an agreement between the ALSWCC and applicant is to provide 1 complete working trap for applicants with 1,000 acres or less and 2 complete working traps for applicants with more than 1,000 acres. However, applicants may purchase additional approved trap components to complete additional corrals or one additional game camera.
- B. Approved applicants will submit the following items: farm location, farm and tract number, proof of feral swine damage or presence of feral swine, selected camera and number of cameras, selected trap as per appropriate job sheet and an itemized cost estimate for the system.

- C. All components of the trap system must meet the standards in the AACDC Conservation Incentive Program Element AFI-5 and the AFI-5A or AFI-5B Job Sheets.
- D. Use of Toxic Bait is NOT permitted.
- E. Applicants with 1,000 acres or less are eligible for 70% Incentive payment for trap components with a CAP of \$6,000 and must have one or more working traps upon completion of project.
- F. Applicants with more than 1,000 acres are eligible for 70% incentive payment for trap components with a CAP of \$12,000 and must have two or more working traps upon completion of project.
- G. Applicant MUST show proof of current hunting license (unless exempt) and bait privilege license at time of contract approval.
- H. The applicant must enter into an agreement with the local district to implement the Feral Swine trapping system as submitted. The applicant will be responsible for installation of the system elements as submitted and proof of proper operation of completed traps.
- I. The local conservation district will provide payment to the applicant at a rate of 70% of the actual cost of the completed trap as demonstrated by actual receipts or paid invoices for the Feral Swine Conservation Incentive Program.
- J. The agreement will be for a length of 12 months at which time the feral swine trap(s) must be complete and fully operational as reviewed and verified by NRCS, APHIS or the District Technician.
- K. Extensions can be requested for no more than 3 months and must be requested 30 days prior to the end of the original signed agreement.

V. Operations and Maintenance Agreement

- A. Applicant must enter into an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Agreement with the local Conservation District for the life of the practice as stated in the AACDC Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) Programs Manual, Part II, Policies and Approved Conservation Practices.

VI. Payment

- A. Applicant must provide actual receipts, paid invoices, cancelled checks, payment statements or other acceptable proof of expenditure to the local Conservation District for review.
- B. The local Conservation District will review the expenditures for the Approved Practice and will reimburse the applicant within 60 days after satisfactory practice completion and review.
- C. Payments cannot be assigned to anyone other than the applicant.

VII. Applicable Permits, Certificates and Reviews

- A. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, certificates and reviews and must provide documentation in a timely fashion before any payment will be made.
- B. Permits and licenses may include but are not limited to Alabama hunting license and Alabama bait privilege license.
- C. Reviews shall include but not limited to NRCS Cultural Resource Reviews.

VIII. Certification of Practices

- A. The NRCS, APHIS or the District Technician will perform a standard checkout and verify the practice installation according to standard ALSWCC procedures.

IX. Documentation

- A. The local Conservation District will compile and maintain a file for each applicant. The following items will be required for all approved applicants.
 - 1. Conservation District Cooperator Form
 - 2. FSA Producer Farm Data Report
 - 3. CCC-902 or CCC-901
 - 4. AD-1026
 - 5. CCC-941
 - 6. Agricultural Land Agreement if applicant is not listed as property owner
 - 7. Applicant Ranking Score sheet if applicable
 - 8. Application with cost estimate
 - 9. Certificate of Installation (verified by NRCS, APHIS or District Technician)
 - 10. O&M agreement
 - 11. Payment information to include receipts and expenditure summary form.
 - 12. Required permits and certificates
 - 13. Cultural Resources Review Form

X. Additional Information

- A. Appeals for any reason shall be mediated by the local Conservation District Board.